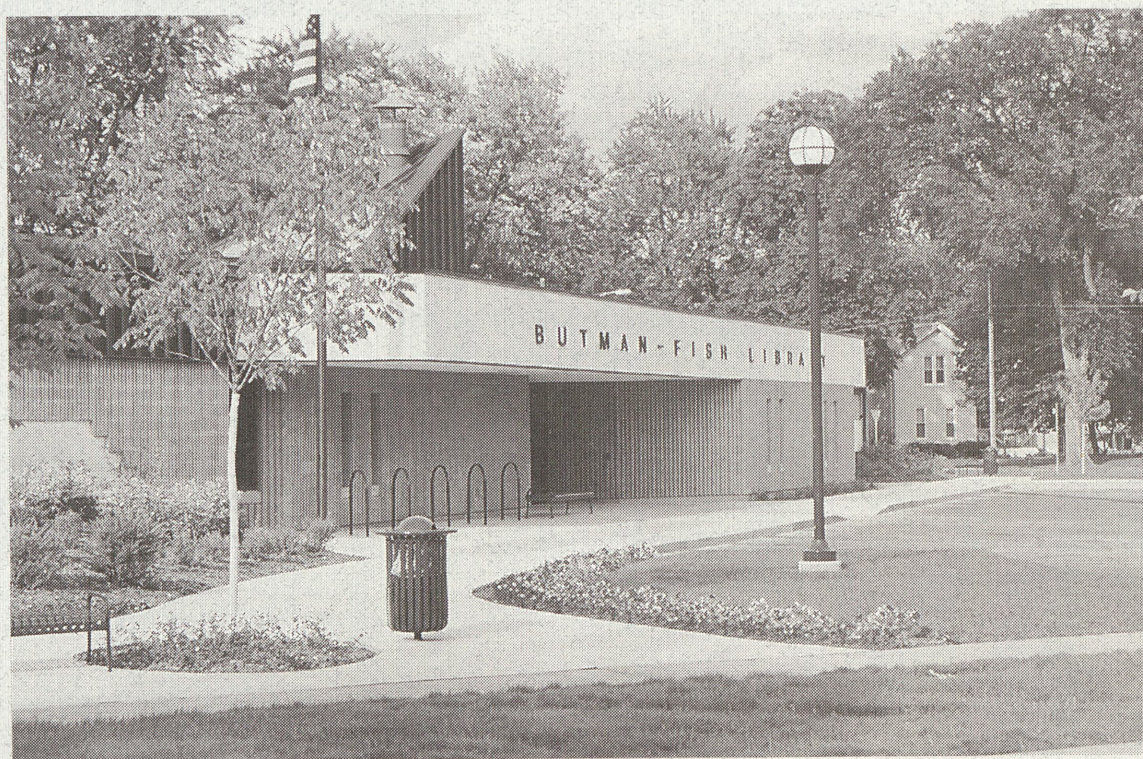


PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW

# BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

## 1916-1998

*Celebrating 82 Years of Service  
On the Occasion of Its Complete Renovation*







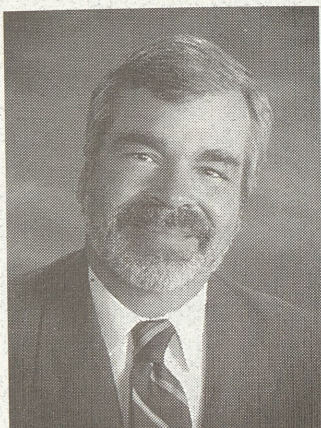
### **LIBRARY COMMISSION**

Standing (left to right): Joan Brownell, Mary Washington, Tina Gutierrez and Beatriz Juárez  
Seated: Reed Phillips, Carol Selby, Bruce L. Dalrymple

Norman L. Maas, Library Director

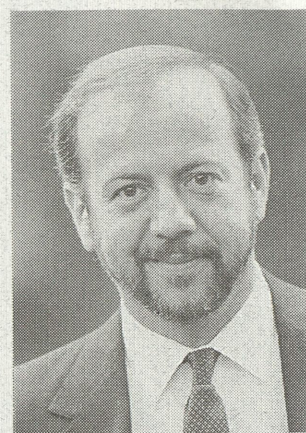
**PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW**  
**SAGINAW, MICHIGAN**  
1998





Bruce L. Dalrymple

## PREFACE



Norman L. Maas

The renovation of the Butman-Fish Library has been a work of joy for those of us associated with the Public Libraries of Saginaw. This busy community library has been transformed into a modern high tech library, with 31 computer workstations to connect users to the wealth of information available via the Internet. In addition to a major electrical and telecommunications upgrade, Butman-Fish has new carpeting, furnishings, book shelving and an upgraded air conditioning and humidification system. Special attention has been paid to handicapped accessibility. The exterior lighting, signage and landscaping improvements make Butman-Fish a much more attractive and visible neighborhood center. Butman-Fish Library is virtually a new library inside and out. We hope that people will find it an exciting place to visit and use the many services it offers to the community.

Planning for the Butman-Fish renovation began in early 1997, with a design team from the library administration, the Spicer Group, Library Design Associates, Inc. and Pollack Design Associates. Wobig Construction Company, Inc. began exterior renovations in September, 1997. Interior renovations were completed by Serenus Johnson & Son Construction Company, Inc. in May - July, 1998.

This project could never have been accomplished without the support of the community. The renovation, which cost approximately \$750,000, has been funded by the tax payers of the library district. We have been tremendously grateful for the support that Saginaw gives its libraries. The overwhelming approval that Saginaw voters gave the library's request for a millage increase in 1994 has laid the foundation for substantial service improvements throughout our libraries. The Public Libraries of Saginaw today has excellent book collections and a revitalized program of services for children and families. We are moving forward with plans to help our community residents effectively use the tremendous resources of the information superhighway.

This publication gives an informal overview of the history of Butman-Fish Library and highlights some of the improvements made during the renovation. We hope that library supporters and users of Butman-Fish Library will enjoy it as a memento of what the library has meant to them. Throughout the years, the Butman-Fish Library staff has touched the lives of many residents of our community. With this renovation, we will continue to do so for years to come.

Bruce L. Dalrymple, Chairman, Saginaw Library Commission  
Norman L. Maas, Director, Public Libraries of Saginaw





*Myron Butman and nephew*

## HISTORY OF THE BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY

Public library services in Saginaw's west side began in 1836 when the first school in the city was built. Space was provided in the school for a public library, which was begun with donated books. After some difficult beginnings, the west side public library was reestablished in 1857. During the next sixty years, the west side public library was located in several sites, including Central School, Arthur Hill High School and John Moore School. It was operated by the Union School District.

In 1913, William S. Fish donated \$30,000 to build a library as a memorial to his wife, Mary, and her father, Myron Butman.

*"Gentlemen – I have in mind some kind of memorial for my late wife, Mary P. Fish, and her father, the late Myron Butman, to be known as the 'Butman-Fish Memorial' and am inclined to do so in the way of a library building for the Union School District..."*

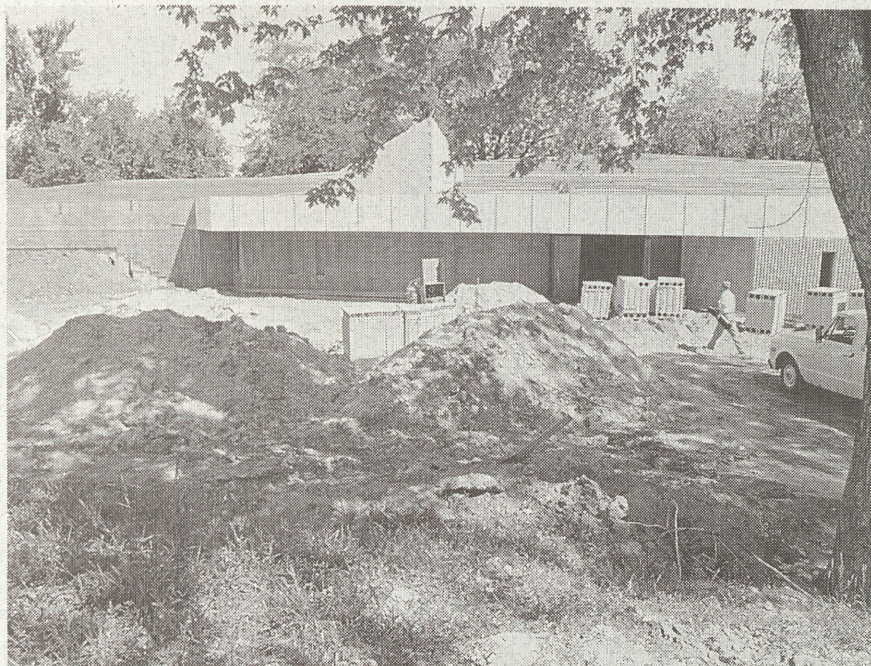
Located on the corner of Harrison and Hancock Streets, the Butman-Fish Memorial Library served the public from 1916 - 1978. By the mid-1970's the original building was overcrowded and in poor repair. The Library Commission and the Saginaw School District made plans to replace it with a much larger facility.

The present Butman-Fish Library opened in January, 1979, and serves as an active community library with an extensive program of children's services. In 1998, Butman-Fish was extensively renovated to accommodate modern library technology, make general building repairs and make the library more handicapped accessible.



*Butman-Fish Memorial Library, 1916-1978*





*Construction of the New Library, 1978*

Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

Architect: Toshach and Sobczak Assoc., Inc.

Cost of Building and Furnishings: \$660,000 • Size: 15,600 square feet

## HISTORIC HIGHLIGHTS

During World War I, Butman-Fish was closed for several weeks because of a fuel shortage and the influenza epidemics. Books were collected to be sent to soldiers' camps and hospitals.

In 1926, following the consolidation of Saginaw's school districts, the Butman-Fish Memorial Library, Hoyt Public Library and the East Side Public Library were merged as the Public Libraries of Saginaw.

During the Depression, staff salaries were cut by 50%, but they were always paid on time and in cash. No new books were bought. Butman-Fish closed on Thursdays.

During World War II, the Victory Book Drive, under the direction of Mrs. Emilie Kahan, reference librarian at Butman-Fish, was responsible for collecting 3,484 usable books.

In 1972, Butman-Fish Library and Claytor Library were closed and Hoyt Library's hours were reduced because of the Public Libraries of Saginaw's financial situation. The library's first operating millage was approved by Saginaw voters in November, 1972.

In 1979, the new Butman-Fish Library opened at its present location. Constructing and furnishing the library cost \$660,000, with most of the funding being provided by a federal public works grant.

In 1998, Butman-Fish Library was extensively renovated to accommodate modern library technology, make general building repairs and make the library more handicapped accessible.





*Children's Book Week, 1934*



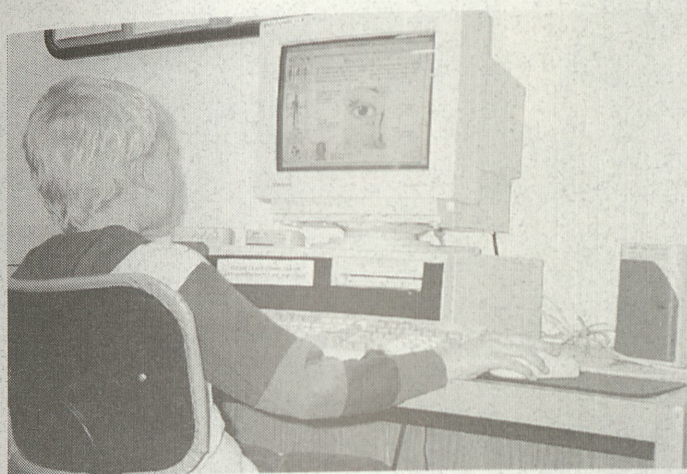
*Piecemaker's Quilt Guild donated quilt in 1994*



*Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News*

*Library service in the early 1970's*





*Computers for children were added in the 1990's*



Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

*Until the 1990's, every child needed to learn about the card catalog*



*Over the years, thousands of children have enjoyed special programs at Butman-Fish*







### **Design Team**

Spicer Group

Gary Warnke, P.E.

Library Design Associates, Inc.

Richard de Bear and Janet McClintock

Pollack Design Associates

Peter Pollack

Public Libraries of Saginaw

Norman L. Maas, Library Director

Elinor Saunders, Branch Head

Design and Project Management

Interior Design

Landscape Architecture

### **General Contractors**

Serenus Johnson & Son Construction Company, Inc.

Wobig Construction Company, Inc.

## **1998 RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS**

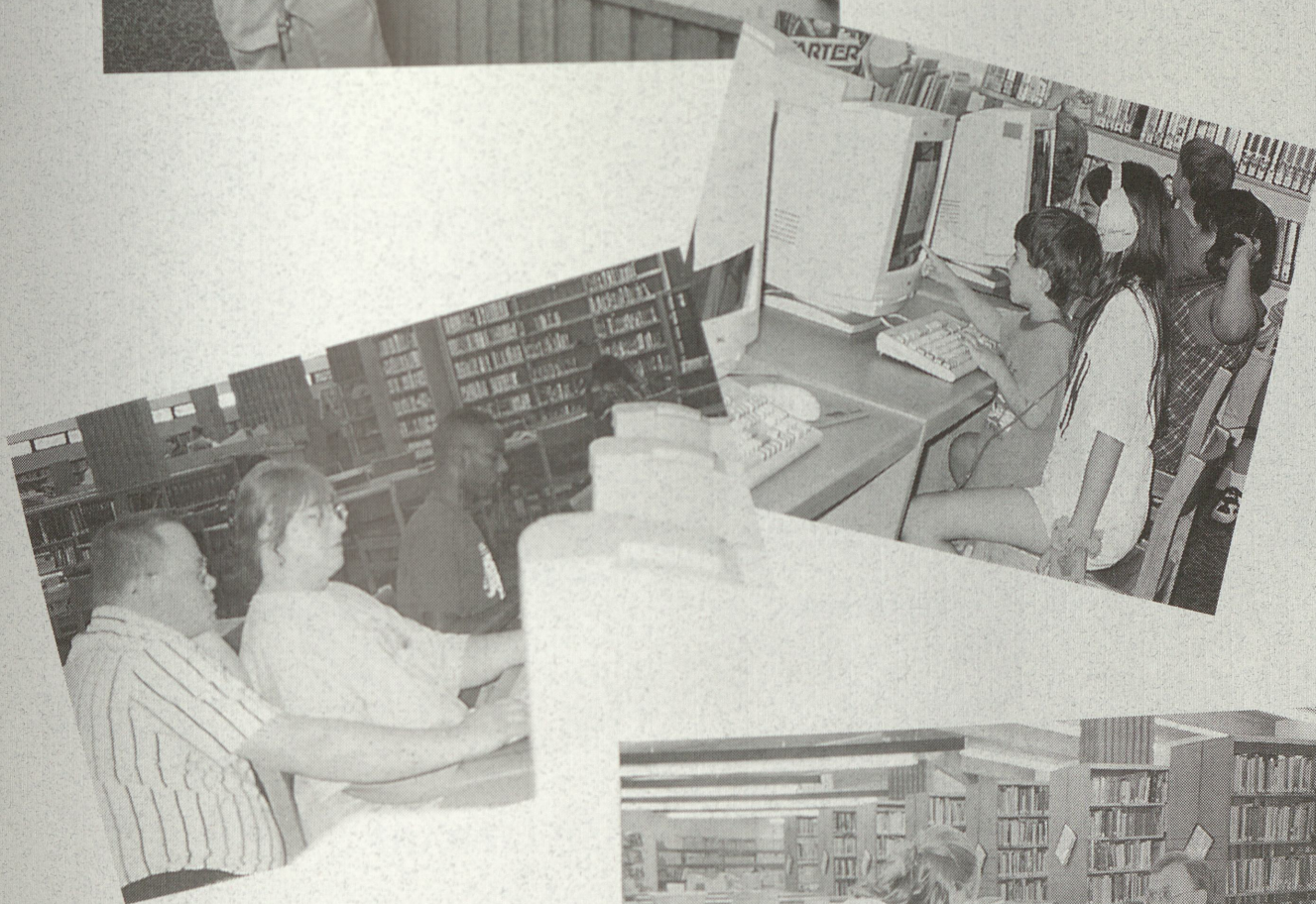
- Electrical and telecommunications systems upgrade to give better access to digital information resources
- Thirty-one public computer workstations
- New carpeting, some new furnishings and the installation of additional book shelving
- Upgraded air conditioning and new humidification system
- Meeting room improvements including teleconferencing ability
- Self-opening handicapped accessible front doors; restrooms redesigned for handicapped access
- Improved exterior lighting, sidewalks, landscaping and signage



## 1998 RENOVATIONS



*New  
Attractive  
Public  
Service  
Areas*



*People  
of all  
ages  
use the  
computers*

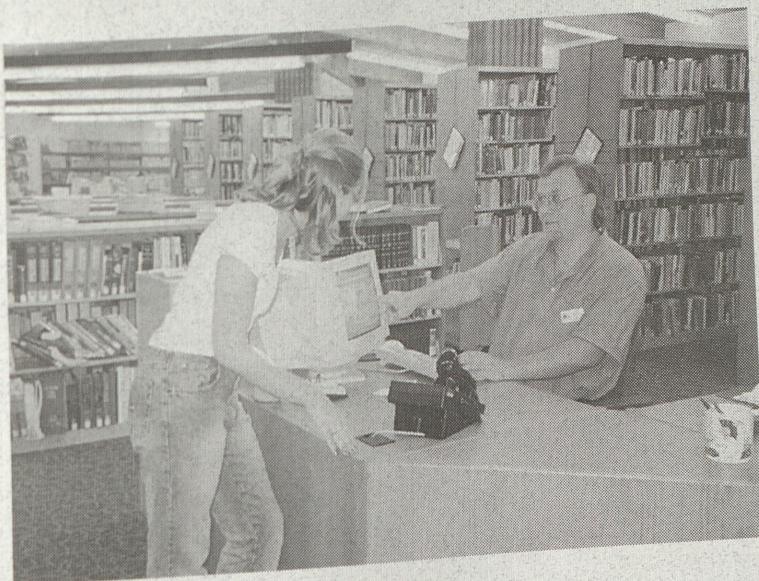






Photo courtesy of The Saginaw News

*The First Grade Teas celebrate first graders learning to read*



*Friends sort books for the annual book sale*



*Friends book sales attract customers from all over the region*

## **FRIENDS OF BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY**

The Friends of Butman-Fish Library have supported library activities since they were first organized in the early 1980's. They volunteer for special library events. Their annual Book Sale, held the first weekend in March, attracts book lovers from throughout the region. Over the decades, the Friends have donated many thousands of dollars worth of equipment and furniture to the library. They also underwrite special library programs, such as the First Grade Teas which celebrate first graders learning to read.





#### **BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY STAFF**

Elinor Saunders, Branch Head

Pictured (left to right):

Front Row: Laura Pache, Gigi Hanley, Sarah Rattray,  
Bernice Szczypka, Janet Turner, Lee Anne Haupricht  
Back Row: Julie Oberson, LaRunja Frills, Nancy Beckert  
Elinor Saunders, Bill O'Brien

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and the Butman-Fish Friends.

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E-Mail: [saginaw@vlc.lib.mi.us](mailto:saginaw@vlc.lib.mi.us) • Website: <http://www.saginaw.lib.mi.us>

#### **HEADS OF BUTMAN-FISH LIBRARY**

Anna Benjamin  
1899-1922

John S. Cleavinger  
1922-1924

Dorothy Teare  
1924-1927

Helen Hempstead  
1927-1930

Mary Silverthorn  
1930-1935

Helen Hempstead  
1935-1937

Ruth Anderson  
1937-1943

Irene Mischler  
1943-1951

Dorothy Fell  
1951-1958

Helen Hempstead  
1958-1961

Barbara Gaertner  
1961-1975

David Curtis  
1975-1978

Greg Lubelski  
1979-1981

Elinor Saunders  
1981-



## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF SAGINAW**

### **Butman-Fish Library**

1716 Hancock St.  
Saginaw, MI 48602  
(517) 799-9160

### **Archer A. Claytor Library**

1410 N. Twelfth St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
(517) 753-5591

### **Hoyt Main Library**

505 Janes St.  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
(517) 755-0904

### **Wickes Library**

1713 Hess St.  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
(517) 752-3821

### **Zauel Memorial Library**

3100 N. Center St.  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
(517) 799-2771

T.D.D. (517) 755-9831

[www.saginaw.lib.mi.us](http://www.saginaw.lib.mi.us)

### **Administrative Office**

#### **Norman L. Maas, Library Director**

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Saginaw, MI 48607  
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Fax: (517) 755-9828  
e-mail: [nmaas@vlc.lib.mi.us](mailto:nmaas@vlc.lib.mi.us)